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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

Sanitary police—Resolution past at the International Conference of American Republics.

The following resolution was past at the Third International Conference of American Republics, which met at Rio de Janeiro in July, 1906:

The Third International American Conference recognizes the utility of the principles of international sanitary police, which inspired the last convention celebrated in Rio de Janeiro, applicable to a definite region, and the convention signed in Washington, on the 14th of October, 1905, which is applicable to all the nations of America, and, in virtue of this, recommends to the countries here represented:

1. That as a general rule they adopt the said International Sanitary Convention of Washington, adhering to it and putting its precepts into practise.

2. The adoption of measures tending to obtain the sanitation of the cities, and especially of the ports, and to attain as far as possible to a better knowledge of the greater observance of hygienic and sanitary principles.

3. The advisability that all American nations attend the next International Sanitary Convention to be celebrated in the City of Mexico in December, 1907, and that they instruct their respective delegates to study and solve the following points:

- A. A practical means of rendering effective the second of the present recommendations.

- B. Establishment and regulation in each of the American countries of a committee composed of three medical or sanitary authorities to constitute, under the direction of the International Sanitary Bureau established at Washington, an International Sanitary Committee on information of the American Republics with authority to meet and to communicate between themselves data referring to public health and for any other purpose that the convention may think proper.

- C. Establishment and regulation in some place in South America designated by the Convention of a center of sanitary information that shall supply to the already existing International Sanitary Bureau the elements necessary to carry out the recommendations 5, 6, and 7 on sanitary police, made by the Second International American Conference.

- D. Establishment of relations between the International Bureau established at Washington and the Bureau Sanitaire International of Paris, in order to obtain the best information in sanitary matters and take resolutions tending to the object intrusted to both bureaus.

4. In accordance with the provisions of article 3, paragraph C, the city of Montevideo is hereby designated as the seat of the center of sanitary information.

(23d of August, 1906.)

Suggestions regarding quarantine, hygiene, and sanitation for consideration at the Conference of American Republics at Rio de Janeiro July, 1906.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 30, 1906.

HON. ELIHU ROOT,
Secretary of State.

SIR: In accordance with your request I submit herewith certain considerations regarding quarantine, hygiene, and sanitation, which appear to me worthy of being brought before the Third Conference of American States to be held in Rio de Janeiro in July next.

PROPOSITIONS.

First. International conference on health matters have heretofore considered only the management of epidemic diseases in their progress from one nation to another.

Second. These diseases are simply the result of unhygienic conditions in the several countries.

Third. These unhygienic conditions are local, and the responsibility on their account lies with municipal or State authorities.

Fourth. The national governments, therefore, are required to deal with conditions due to faults of the States and municipalities.

Fifth. In the measure to prevent the spread of disease from one country to another, plainly the duty of the national governments, the latter are, therefore, dealing only with the effects and not with the cause; they are dealing with the symptoms rather than with the causative conditions.

Sixth. Therefore, notwithstanding that the *fons et origo* of disease is ordinarily considered as within the legal jurisdiction and administration (police power) of the states and municipalities, the national governments must find some means of exercising effective influence in these local conditions which produce disastrous effects that quickly become the care and responsibility of the nation.

Seventh. Quarantine and quarantinable diseases, which heretofore have been the subject of international conventions and agreements, should now be put to one side as having been duly considered and acted upon, and an advance should be made in international deliberations by the consideration of hygiene and sanitation; in other words, the deliberations of international sanitarians should be transferred from ships to the shore.

Eighth. In considering the possibility of an international agreement for a more direct and effective influence of the national governments in local sanitation and hygiene, it will be more practicable to limit such agreement to seaport cities and towns, since these are the points of contact between nations.

Ninth. In the effort to perfect the sanitary and hygienic condition of seaports, we find an international commercial justification therefor in the resultant elimination of yellow fever. There is another all-